

**MINUTES OF AN ADJOURNED REGULAR
MEETING OF THE TORRANCE CITY COUNCIL**

1. CALL TO ORDER

The Torrance City Council convened in an adjourned regular session at 5:40 p.m. on Tuesday, February 28, 2006 in City Council Chambers at Torrance City Hall.

ROLL CALL

Present: Councilmembers Guyton, Mauno, McIntyre, Nowatka, Scotto, Witkowski, and Mayor Walker.

Absent: None.

Also Present: City Manager Jackson, City Attorney Fellows, City Clerk Herbers, and other staff representatives.

Agenda Item 17 was considered out of order at this time.

17. EXECUTIVE SESSION

The Council immediately recessed to closed session to confer with the City Manager and the City Attorney on agenda matters listed under 17A) Conference with Labor Negotiator, 17B) Conference with Legal Counsel – Existing Litigation, 17C) Conference with Legal Counsel – Pending Litigation, and 17D) Conference with Legal Counsel – Significant Exposure to Litigation, pursuant to California Government Code Sections 54957.6, 54956.9(a), 54956.9(b)(1), and 54956.9(b)(3)(A).

The Council reconvened in Council Chambers at 7:00 p.m. No formal action was taken on any matter considered in closed session.

2. FLAG SALUTE/INVOCATION

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Councilmember McIntyre.

Councilmember Witkowski gave the non-sectarian invocation.

3. AFFIDAVIT OF POSTING/WAIVE FURTHER READING

MOTION: Councilmember McIntyre moved to accept and file the report of the City Clerk on the posting of the agenda for this meeting. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Scotto and passed by unanimous roll call vote.

MOTION: Councilmember McIntyre moved that after the City Clerk has read aloud the number and title to any resolution or ordinance on the meeting agenda, the further reading thereof shall be waived, reserving and guaranteeing to each Councilmember the right to demand the reading of any such resolution or ordinance in regular order. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Scotto and passed by unanimous roll call vote.

4. WITHDRAWN OR DEFERRED ITEMS

None.

5. COUNCIL COMMITTEE MEETINGS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Councilmember Scotto announced a Finance and Governmental Operations Committee meeting to be held on Tuesday, March 7, at 5:00 p.m. in the City Council Chambers to discuss the Mid-Year Budget Review Report.

Mayor Walker asked that the meeting be adjourned in memory of Chet Kohler who passed away February 16, 2006.

6. COMMUNITY MATTERS

6A. RESOLUTION NO. 2006-11 RE JANE ISOMOTO

RESOLUTION NO. 2006-11

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE HONORING JANE ISOMOTO UPON HER RETIREMENT FROM THE CITY AFTER FORTY-TWO YEARS OF SERVICE

MOTION: Councilmember Witkowsky moved for the adoption of Resolution No. 2006-11. The motion was seconded by Councilmember McIntyre and passed by unanimous roll call vote.

Mayor Walker presented Resolution No. 2006-11 to Jane Isomoto, who accepted with appreciation.

Community Development Director Gibson commented on the integral role Ms. Isomoto has played in the Planning/Community Development Department, having served as the public face of the department for the past several years and a mentor for a generation of planners. He expressed appreciation for her dedicated service and wished her well in her retirement.

Councilmembers and the Mayor commended Ms. Isomoto for her professionalism, integrity and commitment to the City and offered wells wishes for her retirement.

7. CONSENT CALENDAR

7A. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – December 13, and December 20, 2005

7B. WITHDRAWAL FROM JPA INTERAGENCY COMMUNICATIONS INTEROPERABILITY SYSTEM PROJECT

Recommendation

Recommendation of the **Information Technology Director, Chief of Police,** and **Fire Chief** that City Council authorize the City Manager to formally withdraw active membership in the Joint Powers Authority (JPA), Interagency Communications Interoperability System (ICIS) project.

7C. ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY COMMISSION 2005 ANNUAL REPORT

Recommendation

Recommendation of the **Community Development Director** and the **Environmental Quality Commission** that City Council accept and file the Environmental Quality Commission 2005 Annual Report.

7D. LICENSE AGREEMENT FOR MONITORING WELLS WITH EXXONMOBIL

Recommendation

Recommendation of the **Public Works Director** that City Council:

- 1) Approve a 5-year License Agreement for Monitoring Wells with ExxonMobil Oil Corp for the drilling of thirty-eight (38) groundwater monitoring wells within a City easement at the southeast corner of Madrona Avenue and Del Amo Boulevard; and
- 2) Authorize the Mayor to execute and the City Clerk to attest to said agreement.

7E. APPROVAL OF FINAL TRACT MAP NO. 61511

Recommendation

Recommendation of the **Community Development Director** that City Council approve Final Tract Map No. 61511, creating 22 condominium units on one lot, subdivided by JCC Park Place II, LLC, and located at 4343 190th Street, which substantially conforms to the approved Tentative Map.

7F. GRANT AWARD TO TORRANCE SISTER CITY ASSOCIATION

Recommendation

Recommendation of the **Community Services Director** that City Council award the Torrance Sister City Association a grant in the amount of \$1,500 for the services specified in the application.

7G. MOU WITH L.A. COUNTY METROPOLITAN TRANSIT AUTHORITY RE TORRANCE BLVD./MAPLE AVENUE INTERSECTION ENHANCEMENT

Recommendation

Recommendation of the **Public Works Director** that City Council:

- 1) Approve Memorandum of Understanding MOU.P0008009 with the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority to provide grant funds in the amount of \$466,000 for the Torrance Boulevard at Maple Avenue Intersection Capacity Enhancement;
- 2) Authorize the Mayor to execute and the City Clerk to attest to said Memorandum of Understanding; and
- 3) Appropriate grant funds in the amount of \$466,000 to the Torrance Boulevard Rehabilitation (Sartori Avenue to west City limit), T-43/44.

7H. CONTRACT AMENDMENT WITH WILLIAM LOYD JONES ARCHITECT

Recommendation

Recommendation of the **General Services Department** that City Council approve a contract term extension to December 31, 2006 for William Loyd Jones Architect (C2004-071) for architectural design services for the renovation of Fire Station #5 (FEAP #123).

7I. ACCEPTANCE/APPROPRIATION OF 2006 EDWARD BYRNE MEMORIAL JUSTICE ASSISTANCE GRANT

Recommendation

Recommendation of the **Chief of Police** that City Council;

- 1) Authorize the application and acceptance of the 2006 Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (FEAP #542), in the amount of \$28,586;
- 2) Establish a trust fund for the deposit of grant monies; and

- 3) Upon federal approval of the grant application, appropriate and allocate the grant monies, and any interest on the funds, for the purchase audio digital recorders.

7J. CONTRACT AMENDMENT WITH PIMA CORPORATION

Recommendation

Recommendation of the **Community Services Director** that City Council:

- 1) Approve a contract amendment with Pima Corporation (C2005-117) to install additional irrigation lines and landscaping at Lago Seco Park in the amount of \$53,888;
- 2) Appropriate \$53,888 from the Parks and Recreation Open Space Fund to pay for the additional work (FEAP #331); and
- 3) Authorize the agreement's new not to exceed amount of \$1,814,463 and extend the term through July 15, 2006.

7K. AMENDMENT TO FEE AGREEMENT WITH LIEBERT CASSIDY WHITMORE

Recommendation

Recommendation of the **City Attorney** that City Council approve the amendment to the fee agreement with the law firm of Liebert Cassidy Whitmore to provide legal services relating to a personnel termination appeal proceeding in the additional amount of \$25,000 for a total contract amount not to exceed \$49,000.

7L. SECOND AMENDMENT TO FEE AGREEMENT WITH RUTAN & TUCKER

Recommendation

Recommendation of the **City Attorney** that City Council approve the Second Amendment to the fee agreement with the law firm of Rutan & Tucker to provide legal services in the case of Time Warner v. City of Torrance in the amount of \$25,000 for a "not to exceed " total of \$94,000.

7M. CONTRACT RENEWAL WITH CRM ENTERPRISE, INC.

Recommendation

Recommendation of the **Chief of Police, Fire Chief, and Information Technology Director** that City Council approve a contract extension through December 31, 2006, with CRM Enterprise, Inc. (C2005-054) to continue assistance with installation of a new Public Safety Information System for the Police and Fire Departments, and other communications consolidation-related projects.

7N. AMENDMENT TO AGREEMENT WITH CITY OF LOS ANGELES

Recommendation

Recommendation of the **Human Resources Director** that City Council authorize the execution of an amendment to agreement between the City of Los Angeles (C2005-131) and the City of Torrance.

7O. CONTRACT RE DOWNTOWN SEWER AND WATER MAIN REPLACEMENT

Recommendation

Recommendation of the **Public Works Director** that City Council:

- 1) Approve the plans and specifications for the I-37 Downtown Sewer Replacement and I-60 Downtown Water Main Replacement (B2005-57) on file in the City Clerk's Office;

- 2) Appropriate \$254,000 from the Sewer Enterprise Fund to Project I-37 to cover increased construction costs;
- 3) Award a public works contract to Robert G. Castongia, Inc., in the amount of \$1,541,701 and authorize a 5% contingency in the amount of \$77,085 for this project; and
- 4) Authorize the Mayor to execute and the City Clerk to attest to said contract.

7P. PLAYGROUND EQUIPMENT AT LAGO SECO AND LA ROMERIA PARKS

Recommendation

Recommendation of the **Community Services Director** that City Council:

- 1) Appropriate \$162,829.67 from the Parks and Recreation Open Space Fund into the Park Playground Equipment Replacement Project Account (FEAP #339), and
- 2) Authorize a sole-source purchase order with Miracle Playground Sales of Southern California, Placentia, CA, for an amount not to exceed \$200,329.67 for the acquisition and installation of playground equipment and rubberized play surfacing at Lago Seco and La Romeria Parks.

7Q. LEASE AGREEMENT FOF 2006 CHEVROLET PICKUP TRUCKS

Considered separately, see pages below.

7R. CONSULTING SERVICES AGREEMENT RE BUS STOP MAINTENANCE

Recommendation

Recommendation of the **Transit Director** that City Council authorize the Mayor to execute and the City Clerk to attest to a consulting services agreement with Graffiti Protective Coatings, Inc. (GPC) for the period of March 1, 2006 through June 30, 2008 for the maintenance of transit stops within City boundaries at a cost not to exceed \$154,308.

MOTION: Councilmember Mauno moved for the approval of Consent Calendar Items 7A through 7P, and 7R. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Witkowsky and passed by unanimous roll call vote, with Councilmember Scotto noting his dissenting vote on Item 7E.

Consent Calendar Item 7Q was considered separately at this time.

7Q. LEASE AGREEMENT FOF 2006 CHEVROLET PICKUP TRUCKS

Recommendation

Recommendation of the **General Services Director** that City Council authorize a five-year "Open Ended" leasing agreement with Enterprise Fleet Services of Los Angeles, CA for the lease of ten (10) 2006 Chevrolet 2500 Silverado ¾ Ton Pickup Trucks, including full maintenance and repair services (excluding brake jobs and tire replacement resulting from normal wear and tear). The total not to exceed amount is \$305,000 payable in annual installments. The term of service will begin on the 1st day of the month following the date of delivery of the vehicles and will end on the last day of the 60th calendar month. The agreement also provides for an option of two (2) additional years at the same terms and conditions.

Fleet Services Manager Winnett reviewed the proposal to lease ten Chevrolet Silverado Pickup Trucks with maintenance agreements as replacement vehicles instead of purchasing vehicles and maintaining them with in-house resources as has been done

in the past. He reported that staff has concluded after evaluating costs, that the City could benefit in a number of ways by implementing this proposal as a pilot program. He advised that no reduction in Fleet Services mechanic staff is anticipated because the small reduction in workload will be offset by the increased workload associated with maintaining the City's older diesel powered vehicles, which must be retained due to ACMD restrictions on their replacement.

Responding to questions from the Council, Fleet Services Manager Winnett confirmed that the program could be expanded if it proves successful in saving taxpayers' money. With regard to servicing, he explained that the vendor will pick-up a vehicle for maintenance and return it the same day or provide a no cost loaner should the repair take longer than a day, for a maximum of five days.

Greg Ferguson, Vice President of AFSCME, Local 1117, stated that while he hasn't had time to analyze the information in the staff report, Fleet Services mechanics have voiced concerns about their work being contracted out.

City Manager Jackson expressed his willingness to meet with employees' representatives to offer assurances about job protection, but advised that the City has a deadline of March 3, 2006 to take action on the lease agreement.

Joseph Gonzales, City employee and resident, voiced objections to the proposal, contending that it will cost the City more in the long run due to the inferior quality of repairs and because the unusual demands on City equipment will cause breaches of warranty. He noted that a number of items are not covered by the lease agreement, including tires and brakes.

City Manager Jackson noted that this is a pilot program of only ten vehicles and if the concerns mentioned are valid, it will become apparent during the course of the program.

Mayor Walker expressed concerns that employees and employee groups were not made part of the decision making process. City Manager Jackson advised that the program would have little effect on employees and that staff believes the mechanic labor hours to be freed up will be an added resource as City vehicles are retrofitted over the next few years.

Councilmember Witkowski stated that she would support the program because it could save taxpayers' money and no jobs will be lost.

MOTION: Councilmember Witkowski moved to concur with the staff recommendation. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Scotto and passed by unanimous roll call vote.

11. ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

11A. PROPOSED MODIFICATIONS TO THE ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE OF THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT – ENGINEERING DIVISION

Recommendation

Recommendation of the **City Manager** that City Council approve the following changes to the organizational structure of the Public Works Department – Engineering Division:

- 1) Reallocate one vacant position of Assistant Engineer to an additional position of Associate Engineer; and

- 2) Reallocate one vacant position of Assistant Engineer to an additional position of Engineering Technician III.

Assistant Manager Giordano briefly reviewed the proposed modifications to the organizational structure of the Engineering Division of the Public Works Department.

MOTION: Councilmember Scotto moved to concur with the staff recommendation. The motion was seconded by Councilmember McIntyre and passed by unanimous roll call vote.

11B. REQUEST FOR REINSTATEMENT OF WORK PLAN FOR LANDFILL GAS INVESTIGATION AT DISPOSAL GARDENS

Recommendation

Recommendation of the **City Manager** that City Council address the request of several citizens seeking a reinstatement of the Work Plan for the Landfill Gas Investigation at Disposal Gardens in the City of Torrance and direct the City Manager to send a letter of such a request to the California Integrated Waste Management Board.

Mayor Walker noted that he requested that this item be placed on the agenda for consideration so that it could be addressed in a timely fashion.

Joan Davidson, Palos Verdes, urged the Council to request the reinstatement of the Work Plan for the Landfill Gas Investigation at Disposal Gardens in order to preserve the quality of life for local residents. Submitting documents for the record, she expressed concerns about potential contaminants on this site, including migrating gases, volatile organic compounds, and known carcinogens. She noted that the City of Rolling Hills Estates and the City of Rancho Palos Verdes have already sent letters requesting the reinstatement of the work plan.

David Wiggins, Redondo Beach, reported that the Sierra Club supports the reinstatement of that the work plan, noting that the preliminary report from the California Integrated Waste Management Board indicated that the site is believed to contain explosive methane gas and other hazardous materials. He submitted a letter from the Sierra Club for the record.

Melody Colbert submitted a letter from the Citizens' Advisory Board for the Palos Verdes Landfill in support of the request for reinstatement of the work plan.

MOTION: Councilmember Mauno moved to concur with the staff recommendation. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Scotto and passed by unanimous roll call vote.

Agenda Items 15A, 15B and 15C were considered out of order at this time.

15. SECOND READING ORDINANCES

15A. SECOND AND FINAL READING OF ORDINANCE NO. 3679

Mayor Walker reported that a number of questions have come up regarding Ordinance No. 3679, which regulates the use of canopies; expressed concerns about the City's regulation of backyard canopies that have no visual impact on neighbors; and proposed that the Ordinance be reconsidered at a later date.

Councilmember Nowatka, echoed by Councilmember Witkowsky, voiced support for the reconsideration of this ordinance.

MOTION: Councilmember Scotto moved to reconsider Ordinance No. 3679 at a future Council meeting. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Witkowsky and passed by unanimous roll call vote.

15B. SECOND AND FINAL READING OF ORDINANCE NO. 3680

ORDINANCE NO. 3680

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE ADDING A NEW SECTION 8 TO ARTICLE 32 OF CHAPTER 2 OF DIVISION 9 OF THE TORRANCE MUNICIPAL CODE REGULATING THE USE OF THE PUBLIC RIGHT OF WAY.

MOTION: Councilmember Witkowsky moved for the adoption of Ordinance No. 3680. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Nowatka and passed by unanimous roll call vote.

15C. SECOND AND FINAL READING OF ORDINANCE NO. 3681

ORDINANCE NO. 3681

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE AMENDING SECTION 5 TO ARTICLE 1 OF CHAPTER 5 OF DIVISION 7 OF THE TORRANCE MUNICIPAL CODE REQUIRING A PERMIT TO PRUNE OR REMOVE TREES ON PUBLIC PROPERTY AND SECTION 13 OF ARTICLE 1 OF CHAPTER 5 OF DIVISION 7 REGULATING THE MAINTENANCE AND REPLACEMENT OF TREES IN PARKWAYS

MOTION: Councilmember Witkowsky moved for the adoption of Ordinance No. 3681. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Nowatka and passed by unanimous roll call vote.

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The Council met as the Redevelopment Agency from 7:56 p.m. to 7:59 p.m.

12. HEARINGS

12A. CONSIDERATION OF PARKING RESTRICTIONS ON RECREATIONAL VEHICLES, TRAILERS AND OVERSIZED VEHICLES ON PUBLIC STREETS

Recommendation

Recommendation of the **Community Development Director** and the **Traffic Commission** that City Council

1. Hold a public hearing regarding on-street parking of recreational vehicles, trailers and over-sized vehicles on public streets;
2. Review the staff report and compiled suggestions from the October 3, 2005 Traffic Commission meeting;
3. Adopt an Ordinance adding Article 12 to Chapter 1 of Division 6 relating to Oversized Vehicles and Trailers; and
4. Approve a summary of the ordinance for publication.

Mayor Walker announced that this was the time and place for a public hearing on this matter. City Clerk Herbers confirmed that the hearing was properly advertised.

Mayor Walker noted supplemental material available at the meeting and advised that material submitted after 3:00 p.m. was not printed for distribution but will be included in the record. He outlined the ground rules for the hearing.

Councilmember Guyton stated he would recuse himself from consideration of the item on the advice of the City Attorney based on informal advice from the Fair Political Practices Committee that there may be a financial conflict due to the discussion of fees and that written advice would be forthcoming from the FPPC on the matter.

Councilmember Scotto announced he would abstain from consideration of the item due to the fact he owns a towing business and occasionally tows recreational vehicles. He stated that although his company does not tow for the Torrance Police Department, there is the possibility that there would be a public perception that he would benefit financially should the ordinance be approved.

Mayor Walker noted that this issue has been under review for a year and a half and generated a staff report over 500 pages long and there was a good chance the hearing would be continued following public testimony. He stressed the need to proceed cautiously and take the time necessary to arrive at a workable solution.

Transportation Planning Manager Semaan reviewed the Traffic Commission's recommendation as follows:

- 1) "Grandfather" recreational vehicles, trailers and oversized vehicles (OV's) currently owned by residents of the City of Torrance, now until December 28, 2006, by registering these vehicles with the City for a permanent no-fee parking permit;
- 2) Allow a one-for-one replacement of a grandfathered vehicle; and
- 3) Require a temporary one-day (24-hour) permit for parking non-grandfathered OV's on City streets with a maximum of 96 permits per year for residents and up to 14 consecutive one-day permits for visitors with a maximum of 30 days in a calendar year.

Transportation Planning Manager Semaan noted that the following other options were considered:

- 1) Parking allowed for any recreation vehicle, trailer or oversized vehicle on public streets only with no-fee permit with a maximum of 96 one-day permits per year, excluding permit requirements during nighttime hours and/or weekends;
- 2) Provide a permit-fee grace period of one year for residents of the City of Torrance who currently own OV's by registering their vehicle with the City, with an additional one-year extension for special circumstances;
- 3) Prohibit the parking of OV's on narrow streets, i.e. less than 34' curb-to-curb.
- 4) Provide a permit-free grace period of up to 72 hours;
- 5) Take no action, status quo.

Transportation Planning Manager Semaan reported that staff conducted a survey in July of 2005 to determine the extent of the problem and observed 404 oversized vehicles parked on City streets, 107 of which were not registered to properties in Torrance. He noted that staff researched oversized vehicle parking restrictions in 24 Southland cities and the results were included in the staff report.

In response to Councilmember Mauno's inquiry, Deputy City Attorney Sullivan advised that the Torrance Municipal Code does not currently address the parking of recreation vehicles on City streets, however, Section 61.6.4 prohibits the parking of any vehicle longer than 72 hours.

In response to Councilmember Witkowsky's inquiry, Police Lieutenant Matsuda reported that the 72-hour parking law is enforced on a complaint basis or when a parking officer observes a vehicle parked for an extended period of time and confirmed that it is easily thwarted by moving the vehicle after the tires have been marked.

Mayor Walker suggested that possibility of making the 72-hour parking law more difficult to circumvent as a starting point to address this problem.

Deputy City Attorney Sullivan advised that as the law is currently written, vehicles may not be cited if they have been moved even an inch within the 72-hour period and that some cities have specified that the vehicle may not be within a certain distance of their original location to make the law easier to enforce.

Mayor Walker invited public comment.

Karen Galvin, Iris Avenue, noted that she was not representing the Traffic Commission of which she is a member and that she owns an RV, but does not park it on City streets. She stated that she has attended every meeting on this issue and believes permit parking is the only solution because the 72-hour parking law is impossible to enforce. She explained that there have been reports of people parking their RV's at the same location for more than 20 years, periodically rolling them forward and back a few inches to avoid parking citations. She voiced objections to the proposal to grandfather currently owned RV's by issuing permanent parking permits for them because this would allow their owners to continue to impose on their neighbors.

Norman Bauer, Macafee Road, stated that the staff report lists several good reasons for not allowing the storage of RV's on City streets, but the proposed ordinance does not address these problems, and instead legitimizes scofflaws who currently do so in violation of the 72-hour parking law and encourages residents, who are currently paying for storage, to park on City streets by offering them a no-fee permit.

Terry Bauer, Macafee Road, related her experience that the 72-hour parking law is impossible to enforce.

Evan Peters, Grant Avenue, questioned whether he could continue to park his 20-foot motor home in his backyard should the proposed ordinance be enacted, and Deputy City Attorney Sullivan confirmed that he could do so.

Peter Dabbieri, Via El Chico, reported that RV's often take longer than a 24-hour period to get ready for a trip. He noted that proposed Section 61.12.070 prohibits the running of an electrical cord to the vehicle, however, power is needed to vacuum, charge the battery, and chill the refrigerator in preparation for a trip. He expressed concerns that the proposed ordinance makes no provisions for someone who rents an RV and needs to park on City streets before or after a trip or for someone who operates a business involving an oversized vehicle that must park on City streets. He requested that this matter be continued until these issues can be addressed.

Robert Thompson, President of Madrona Homeowners Association, reported that the association supports the proposal to restrict the parking of RV's on City streets. Speaking on his own behalf, he stressed the need to be able to park in front of his home when preparing for and cleaning up after a trip.

Patrick Smolinski, Evalyn Avenue, reported that inconsiderate neighbors continue to park a motor home in front of his residence, creating a safety hazard, and simply move it to the other side of the street when marked by parking enforcement.

Karen Fitch, 236th Street, noted that she owns an RV and parks it in her driveway so as not to violate the 72-hour parking law. She expressed confidence that the Council would make the right decision.

Michael Cotton, President of Riviera Homeowners Association, voiced support for the proposed ordinance, but called for the elimination of the grandfather clause for safety reasons. He noted that the Riviera area, with its narrow streets and lack of sidewalks, makes the parking of RV's particularly hazardous.

Mayor Walker stated that while he was not in favor of grandfathering these vehicles forever, he felt RV owners need a reasonable amount of time to make other arrangements, especially given the lack of storage facilities in the area. He stressed the need for a long-term rational solution that will allow people to park in front of their homes long enough to load and unload their vehicles before and after a trip.

Mr. Cotton voiced his opinion that proposed ordinance without the grandfather clause offers a rational solution because it allows RV owners to park on the street up to 96 days per year and RV owners would have time to make other arrangements because the ordinance would not take effect until January 2007.

Charles L. Deemer, Talisman Street, stated that he was opposed to requiring permits to park RV's on City streets; noted that he owns an RV but does not store it on the street; and related his experience that it can take longer than 72 hours to clean up an RV after a trip. He suggested that this entire process has been an exercise in futility because there's no way to resolve this issue to everyone's satisfaction.

Wendy Williams, 218th Street, noted that she owns an RV that she keeps in storage. She reported that she called storage facilities in the area and found that they are full and not even accepting names for waiting lists, therefore, people will need time to find storage. She voiced her opinion that the proposal to issue parking permits to residents who currently own RV's is a good idea because it would at least eliminate the parking of RV's not owned by Torrance residents and suggested that those who buy RV's after 2006 would be forewarned about the new regulations. She pointed out that the proposed ordinance does not really address safety hazards associated with RV's parked on the street and suggested that they may have to be addressed as a separate issue.

Ken Hall, Macafee Road, reported on the lack of storage space for RV's in the area; questioned whether statistics support the claim that recreation vehicles pose a safety hazard when parked on City streets; and disputed the idea that homeowners association presidents speak for the majority residents in their areas. He noted that he owns an RV and a boat, which he keeps in storage, and it can take up to six days to prepare for or clean up after a trip. He expressed concerns that the proposed ordinance could create a financial hardship for older residents who own RV's and cannot afford the additional expense of storing them and offered to form and manage a non-profit organization to provide a low-cost storage facility if the City will donate the land.

The Council recessed from 9:00 p.m. to 9:27 p.m.

Stan Chernoff, Greenwood Avenue, noted that TMC Section 61.6.19 prohibits the parking of any vehicle in excess of 8,000 pounds for more than one hour on City streets, which would seem to apply to large motor homes. He related his understanding that this section is not enforced because signs are not posted warning of this restriction and suggested that RV parking problems could be rectified by enforcing existing regulations.

Michael Nannini, Via El Sereno, urged the Council to prohibit all parking of RV's on City streets. He reported that he is forced to drive in the opposing lane of traffic every day in order to pass an RV parked on his street and noted that RV's also create traffic hazards by blocking the view of vehicles exiting driveways and children crossing streets. He questioned whether the City would be liable should an accident occur due to its failure to take action on this issue.

Deputy City Attorney Sullivan advised that it would depend on the circumstances surrounding the accident.

Robert Gilles, Arlington Avenue, urged that residents receive adequate notification should the regulations be enacted so they are not cited due to ignorance of the law.

Randy Lee, Vanderhill Road, reported that he owns a motor home which he parks on the street and moves every week; maintained that parking is a common problem throughout Torrance due to the building of new multi-family developments with inadequate parking; and doubted that there is a solution to this problem.

Mayor Walker noted the City's stringent parking requirements for new developments.

George Barber, Newton Street, voiced his opposition to any ordinance restricting RV parking, contending that the problem of inconsiderate RV owners could be addressed by enforcing the existing 72-hour parking law, and maintained that the proposed permit system is overly complicated and would be much more difficult to enforce. He noted that he owns an RV and it would be a great hardship if he could not occasionally park it on the street.

Glen Kaiser, Mansel Avenue, stated that he lives on a wide street where the parking of RV's is not a problem and this may be a more localized problem, which is better addressed as such. He suggested the strengthening of the existing 72-hour parking law as a possible solution.

Kurt Ledbetter, Cathann Street, stated that he has not taken a position on this issue, but believes whatever is done should be clearly defined and easy to enforce rather the proposed ordinance, which prohibits the parking of oversized vehicles on City streets and then goes on to list a number of exceptions. He urged the City to be innovative and not just copy what other cities have done.

Fred Saunders, Fonthill Avenue, reported that he parks his RV in front of his home and uses it 3-4 times a week as a second vehicle. He conceded that unsightly RV's parked on City streets can be a problem, but proposed that each case be addressed on an individual basis with the City working with the parties involved to resolve the situation.

Bill Applegate, Galva Avenue, maintained that it was unreasonable to expect someone to prepare a recreation vehicle for a trip in only 24 hours, stressing the need for a good night's rest before leaving on a driving vacation. He suggested that it might be necessary to institute a permit system to avoid becoming a parking lot for Palos

Verdes residents, and also suggested posting signs prohibiting the parking of RV's on narrow streets, such as those in the Riviera area. He expressed concerns that amending the 72-hour parking law to specify a distance would only shift the problem. He pointed out that RV owners could simply pave an area in their front yard and park their RVs there, should parking on the street be prohibited, which would defeat the aesthetic aspect of the ordinance. He noted that camping is a family activity and something that should be promoted and urged the Council not to penalize the majority of RV owners who are considerate of their neighbors because of the small minority who are creating a problem.

Floyd Heideman, Teri Avenue, reported that he owns an RV but does not park it on the street. He stated that the 72-hour parking law was designed to keep inoperative or abandoned vehicles off the street and that it was never intended to regulate the parking of RV's and should not be used for this purpose. He indicated that he supports the proposed ordinance but was concerned that it makes no provisions for someone who uses an RV as a second vehicle.

Kurt Beyersdorff, Spencer Street, noted that he was asked by his neighbor to park his RV on the street instead of the driveway because it was interfering with his view to the west. He contended that the parking of RV's on streets is not a citywide problem, explaining that there are numerous places in his neighborhood where one can park an RV without imposing on neighbors. He pointed out that RV's can serve as an emergency shelter in the event of a disaster so there is a benefit in having them close at hand. He suggested the possibility of using Disposal Gardens as a site for RV storage.

Terri Thomas, Carson Street, reported that she has an RV, which she uses every day as her primary vehicle, and expressed concerns that she will have to sell it should the proposed ordinance be adopted.

Lisa Hayes, 235th Street, stated that she owns an RV and a trailer that is kept in storage and she strongly supports the proposed ordinance, with the exception of the grandfather clause, which she feels unfairly rewards those who have been breaking the law. She indicated that she did believe a grace period was necessary to allow time for RV owners to find a place to store their vehicles and noted that a month's storage costs about the same as a tank of gas.

Dee Hardison, 236th Street, noted that she has owned a motor home for 20 years and has never stored it at her residence. She expressed concerns about the lack of RV storage in Torrance; noted that U.S. Storage on Crenshaw plans to eliminate 133 out of 154 existing RV storage spaces; and called for an exact count of spaces available in Torrance and the surrounding area. With regard to the proposed ordinance, she indicated that she thought the provision requiring RV owners to park adjacent to their residence is very important and suggested that this provision be strengthened by specifying that it shall be parked "immediately" adjacent. She stated that while RV owners who park on City streets will need time to make other arrangements, she had reservations about grandfathering currently owned RV's for an extended period of time. She agreed that the 72-hour parking law was not meant to regulate RV parking and related her experience as a former mayor, that it was not effective when used for this purpose. She voiced her opinion that 72 hours is a sufficient amount of time to load/unload an RV, noting that she tries not to park in front of her home longer than 24 hours due to safety concerns.

Michael Richardson, Watson Avenue, called for the enforcement of existing laws so no vehicles are stored on City streets.

David Genovisi, Greenwood Avenue, noted that he parks his motor home in front of his residence and uses it frequently. He suggested annual speedometer checks of parked RV's to verify that they have traveled a minimum of 2,400 miles a year to ensure that they are being used and not just stored.

Ed Bower, 237th Street, reported that he uses his motor home approximately 150 days a year and strongly opposes any ordinance that would limit RV owners' ability to park on the street. He called for a phone-in permit process, should the proposed ordinance be adopted; noted the need for access to water hoses and electrical cords in order to clean and prepare RV's; and suggested that it was unnecessary to include a provision requiring that an RV be parked adjacent to the owner's home because that is the most convenient place to park.

The City Council recessed from 10:38 p.m. to 10:54 p.m.

Mayor Walker advised that the Council would allow a few more speakers and then continue the hearing due to the lateness of the hour.

William Tymczynszyn, Mesa Street, related his experience that RV's parked on the street pose a safety hazard for bicyclists and recommended that the Council adopt the proposed ordinance, without the grandfather clause because it completely negates the purpose of the ordinance. He proposed that the City consider developing land unsuitable for other purposes for RV storage, noting that he stores his airplane in a City-owned hangar so there is a precedent for this type of arrangement.

Harvey Hetrick, Cranbrook Avenue, disputed the findings in Section 1 of the proposed ordinance, stating that no evidence has been presented to support claims that recreation vehicles constitute a significant safety or fire hazard when parked on City streets. He noted that propane gas is widely used for heating and cooking and propane storage has not proved to be particularly dangerous. He related his understanding that City laws are superseded by the California Vehicle Code.

Deputy City Attorney Sullivan clarified that Section 22507 of the California Vehicle Code allows local authorities to adopt parking regulations as they see fit.

Judith Schloff, Loftyview Drive, reported that she calls parking enforcement on a regular basis because the Victoria Knolls area is plagued by RV's parked in violation of the 72-hour parking law. She indicated that she did not favor the grandfather clause in the proposed ordinance because it would allow people to continue to violate this law. She questioned why the parking of RV's is prohibited in the Country Hills area, but not the rest of Torrance.

Councilmember Witkowsky explained that homeowners in the Country Hills area are subject to CC&Rs (Covenants, Conditions and Restrictions), which were adopted at the time the development was built and include a prohibition against the parking of RV's.

Janet Payne, Engracia Avenue, noted that most RV owners belong to the Good Sam Club or the Family Motorcoach Association and both of these organizations have made recommendations on this issue, which might be helpful to investigate. She encouraged that any ordinance be as concise as possible and recommended that a fee be charged to help defray the expense if a permit system is instituted.

Mayor Walker thanked audience members for maintaining decorum throughout the hearing despite their diverse opinions.

Mayor Walker stated that while his first impression was that the proposed permit system was too cumbersome, he now thought some form of a permit system might be necessary to control the parking of RV's by non-residents. He agreed that the 72-hour parking law was not designed to regulate RV parking, however, he felt that was a reasonable amount of time for someone to prepare an RV for a trip. He asked that staff provide additional information about weight limitations on City streets.

Mayor Walker indicated that he did not favor the grandfather clause because it would grant rights to some homeowners while denying them to others and preferred instead an extended grace period that would allow the City the time to find a solution to the lack of storage facilities. He noted that it is not feasible for private developers to build RV storage facilities in Torrance due to the high cost of land and rents for existing storage spaces have increased in anticipation of the pending ordinance. He suggested the possibility that vacant City property or easements under power lines could be developed for RV storage.

Councilmember Mauno stated that City streets were not designed for the storage of RV's, but it became an accepted practice due to the difficulty of enforcing the 72-hour parking law. He asked that staff look into the possibility of issuing stickers to RV owners to be placed on their RV and tied to their address, which would allow them to park in front of their home for a period of up to 72 hours. He pointed out that such a system should be easy to administer and easy to enforce because a vehicle could only be parked in front of the owner's residence and the 72-hour limit couldn't be circumvented by rolling a vehicle a few inches forward or back. He recommended that streets be surveyed to determine if some are too narrow to safely park RV's, in which case it should be prohibited. He agreed with the Mayor that there should be a grace period instead of a grandfather clause and that the City needs to ensure that storage space is available. He expressed confidence that a practical solution could be found but stressed the need to proceed cautiously to avoid creating a new set of problems.

Councilmember McIntyre stated that she believed another count of RV's should be taken because the original survey was done in July, when many RV's are in use and asked for information regarding the exact number of storage spaces currently available in Torrance and the surrounding area. She voiced support for exploring the use of easements under power lines for RV storage. She expressed concerns that the cost of storage fees could be a hardship for senior citizens who never expected this added expense and suggested that consideration be given to making an exception and allowing them to store their vehicles in front of their homes. She noted that she attended one Traffic Commission meeting on this issue, which was quite contentious, and thanked Transportation Planning Manager Semaan and the Traffic Commission for their efforts. She urged patience as the lengthy process continues and related her belief that the matter can be resolved in a way that is acceptable to all involved.

MOTION: Councilmember Witkowsky moved to continue the hearing to March 28, 2006. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Nowatka and passed by unanimous roll call vote (absent Councilmembers Guyton and Scotto).

16. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

16A. Councilmember Mauno commented on the Amgen Tour and thanked City staff for their efforts.

16B. Councilmember Witkowsky announced the Torrance Fire Fighters Association 34th Annual Spaghetti Dinner to be held at the Torrance Recreation Center on Saturday, March 18, to benefit the Alisa Ann Rusch California Burn Foundation.

16C. Councilmember Witkowsky complimented City employee Fred Griffin for assisting a senior with heater repairs during the holidays when the Gas Company was unable to respond.

16D. Mayor Walker commented on his enjoyment of meetings like this where people come together to solve problems.

16E. Fire Chief Bongard reminded everyone that ExxonMobil would be conducting the monthly test of the siren and community alert system on Wednesday, March 1, at 11:30 a.m.

17. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Considered earlier in the meeting, see page 1.

18. ADJOURNMENT

At 11:39 p.m., the meeting was adjourned to Tuesday, March 7, 2006 at 6:00 p.m. for the regular meeting in the Council Chambers.

Attest:

/s/ Dan Walker

Mayor of the City of Torrance

/s/ Sue Herbers

Sue Herbers, CMC

City Clerk of the City of Torrance

Approved on April 11, 2006